



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

*Preventing  
environmental  
damage from  
hazardous waste,  
and restoring  
contaminated  
sites for all  
Californians.*



State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

Public Involvement, April 2007

## The Draft Removal Action Workplan For The New Plumas Ranch Elementary School Is Available For Your Review



*Plumas Ranch Elementary School Site*

The Plumas Elementary School District (PESD) plans to build a new elementary school (Site) located at the southwest corner of Lakeport Way and Lockwood Drive, in Plumas Lake, California. (See Site map on page 4.) The proposed new school will consist of 28 classrooms, a multi-purpose room, staff offices, and playground facilities for approximately 525 students.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is a part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC oversees soil and groundwater investigations at proposed new or expanding school sites, and evaluates sites for potential hazardous materials or contamination that may pose a risk to school children, the staff or faculty. If contamination is found, DTSC oversees the cleanup of the property.

During an investigation of the Site, elevated levels of arsenic were found in shallow soil. PESD submitted a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) to DTSC for review and approval. The draft RAW describes the investigation, the contamination found, and proposes Site clean-up activities that will be completed prior to construction of the proposed school. The draft RAW, dated March 19, 2007, is available for your review at the information repositories listed on page 4 of this fact sheet.

If you have questions about the draft RAW, please contact Mr. Neal Hutchison, DTSC Project Manager, at (916) 255-4369 or by e-mail at [Hhutchis@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Hhutchis@dtsc.ca.gov).

### Public Comment Period

We encourage you to review and comment on the draft RAW for the proposed Plumas Ranch Elementary School. DTSC will hold a 30-day public comment period beginning April 2, 2007 and ending on May 1, 2007. All e-mailed comments must be sent to the DTSC no later than 5 p.m. by May 1, 2007. Please submit your written comments to:

Mr. Neal Hutchison, DTSC Project Manager  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
or by e-mail to [Hhutchis@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Hhutchis@dtsc.ca.gov)



## This Fact Sheet Provides Information About:

- Site History and Background
- Investigation Findings
- Summary of the Proposed Removal Action Workplan
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Next Steps for Cleanup

### Site History and Background

The 10-acre parcel of land is currently undeveloped and owned by Cresleigh Homes. The property was formerly a plum orchard. After removal of the plum trees in 1996, the Site was used for farming grain and hay. The property has not been used for agricultural purposes since 2003. DTSC requested a Site investigation to look for chemicals associated with agricultural activities.

### Investigation Findings

Site investigations were conducted between October 2005 and August 2006. Elevated arsenic levels were found in Site soils that could pose a threat to human health. The elevated arsenic was limited to shallow (less than three feet below the ground surface) soils and does not pose a threat to groundwater. The total volume of impacted soil is estimated to be approximately 3,222 cubic yards. The chart below lists the chemical, likely source, maximum level detected and the DTSC required cleanup level.

| Chemical of Concern    | Likely Source of Contamination                        | Maximum Detected Level | DTSC Cleanup Level |
|------------------------|---|------------------------|--------------------|
| Arsenic                | Pesticide/herbicide applied to the plum tree orchard. | 33 ppm                 | 12 ppm             |
| ppm: parts per million |   |                        |                    |

Due to the elevated arsenic levels found in soil, DTSC required PESD to submit a draft RAW that identifies the options to reduce or eliminate exposure to arsenic before occupying the new school.

### Removal Action Workplan

The draft RAW evaluates cleanup alternatives and identifies DTSC recommended alternative for the proposed removal action that would prevent or reduce potential risks to public health and the environment. The draft RAW summarizes previous

investigations and outlines available cleanup alternatives. Cleanup alternatives are screened and evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness, ability to be implemented and cost.

DTSC will review and consider comments received during the 30-day public comment period before making a final decision to approve, modify or disapprove the selected cleanup alternative.

### Summary of Proposed Removal Action Workplan

The draft RAW proposes excavation of up to three feet of soils from select areas of the Site. The soils will be sent to a proper disposal facility and the excavated area filled with clean soil.

If the draft RAW is approved, you may expect to see the following removal activities for the soil:

- Large equipment, such as excavators and backhoes, will be used to excavate and stockpile approximately 3,222 cubic yards (approximately 150 truckloads) of contaminated soil.
- Stockpiled soil will be temporarily placed on heavy plastic sheeting at the Site until loaded onto trucks.
- During Site activities, soils will be lightly sprayed with water from water trucks to reduce or prevent dust.

Field work activities will take approximately two weeks to complete.

### Truck Route

Approximately 150 trucks will transport the contaminated soil to a State-licensed disposal facility. The trucks will be operated by a licensed hazardous waste trucking contractor and will travel Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Trucks exiting the Site will:

- Leave the Site by exiting onto Lakeport Way and traveling north to Lockwood Drive.
- The trucks will then turn right on Lockwood Drive, then right again onto River Oaks Boulevard, where they will travel south approximately 1/2 mile to Feather River Boulevard.

- The trucks will then turn left on Feather River Boulevard for 0.15 mile, where they will enter Highway 70-south.
- The trucks will travel south on Highway 70 for approximately 1.1 miles, turn east on Rio Oso Road for 1.5 miles, turn north on Bear River Drive for 1.6 miles, turn north on Pleasant Grove Road for 0.7 miles and continue north on Forty Mile Road for 5.9 miles.
- The trucks will then turn east on Ostrom Road and travel the final 5.8 miles ending at the Ostrom Class II landfill at 5900 Ostrom Road in Wheatland, California.



*Example of an Excavator*

## Dust Suppression

Dust control measures, including water spraying, will reduce dust during the cleanup activities. Air and dust monitoring will be conducted and work will be stopped if acceptable levels are exceeded. Before leaving the Site, excess dirt will be removed from the external parts of the truck, including tires.

## Public Access

The proposed removal activities will be conducted near the south end of the proposed 10-acre school Site in the area of the former orchard. Public access is restricted by security fencing and no pedestrian traffic will be allowed where the removal action will take place.

## California Environmental Quality Act - Notice of Exemption

DTSC evaluated any possible impacts of the removal action for this project, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) which states that this removal action will not have significant impacts on the environment. The draft NOE is available for public review, along with other supporting documents.

## Next Steps

If comments are received from the community on the activities proposed in the draft RAW, DTSC will prepare a "Response to Comments" at the completion of the public comment period. Anyone who submits comments regarding the proposed cleanup activities will receive a copy of the "Response to Comments." Additionally, a copy of the "Response to Comments" will be placed in

the information repositories. If comments are not received, DTSC will approve the draft RAW for implementation.

## For More Information

Please contact any of the following individuals with any questions or concerns you may have.

Questions regarding the draft RAW:

Mr. Neal Hutchison, DTSC Project Manager, at (916) 255-4369 or by e-mail to [hhutchis@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:hhutchis@dtsc.ca.gov).

Questions regarding the public participation process:

Ms. Kim Rhodes, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, toll-free (866) 495-5651 or (916) 255-3651 or by e-mail to [Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov).

Questions from the media:

Mr. Ron Baker, DTSC Public Information Supervisor, at (916) 255-3142 or by e-mail to [Rbaker@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Rbaker@dtsc.ca.gov).

## Information Repositories

The draft RAW, NOE, and other related documents may be viewed at the following location:

### Yuba County Public Library

302 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

Marysville, California 95901

(530) 749-7380

Monday – Thursday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

### Plumas Elementary School District

Attn: Dione Beilby

1220 Zanes Drive

Plumas Lake, California 95961

(530) 743-4428

### Department of Toxic Substances Control

8800 Cal Center Drive

Sacramento, California 95826

File Room:

By appointment only (916) 255-3758

## Notice to the Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 and ask to speak with Ms. Kim Rhodes at (916) 255-3651.

## Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de esta información, favor de llamar a Jesus Cruz, Especialista en Participación Pública del Departamento de Control de Substancias Tóxicas. El número de teléfono es (916) 255-3315.

